

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) [[a]] A portable audio signal recording and reproducing apparatus comprising:

~~an encoder for generating compressed data using a high efficiency compression method;~~

a memory unit including at least one semiconductor memory ~~for storing~~ configured to store the compressed audio data ~~that was previously compressed via high-efficiency compression processing from said encoder;~~

a decoder ~~for decoding~~ configured to decode the compressed data ~~when~~ read out from the memory unit, and ~~producing~~ configured to produce a decoded output signal according to a reverse processing of the high-efficiency compression ~~method processing~~;

a digital/analog converter ~~for converting~~ configured to convert the decoded output signal from said decoder into [[an]] ~~at least one~~ analog signal;

a ~~first~~ ~~headphone driven~~ unit ~~and a second headphone driven unit~~ configured to receive as input ~~at least portions of said at least one analog signal,~~ receiving ~~said analog signal from digital/analog converter and for producing acoustic sounds from there;~~

~~said first headphone driven unit~~ configured to produce a left audio channel sound and ~~said second headphone driven unit~~ configured to produce a right audio channel sound; and

an input unit including a plurality of user-operated keys ~~user-activated interfaces~~ that respectively trigger different functions, wherein ~~one~~ of the compressed audio data is read out from said memory unit in response to ~~operation of~~ triggering one of said plurality of user-activated interfaces ~~keys~~ of said input unit.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The portable audio signal recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said apparatus further comprises an analog/digital converter for converting an analog audio signal into a digital audio signal and the digital audio signal outputted from said analog to digital converter is supplied to said an encoder.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The portable audio signal recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a housing unit for housing therein said memory unit, said decoder, and said digital/analog ~~eonverter~~ converter and having said input unit arranged thereon.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The portable audio signal recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising ~~mounting means, whereby a memory mount that enables~~ [[is]] to be removably housed in said housing unit.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The portable audio signal recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising an electrical connector connecting means for electrically connecting configured to electrically connect said headphone unit and said housing unit.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The portable audio signal recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising ~~mounting means, whereby a memory mount such that~~ said memory unit is removable.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A portable audio signal reproducing apparatus, comprising:

a memory unit ~~for storing~~ configured to store a plurality of music data portions and including at least one semiconductor memory having stored therein high-efficiency compression encoded audio data making up said plurality of music data portions, said semiconductor memory having a capacity for storing a predetermined amount of said audio data resulting in at least fifteen minutes of an analog signal;

a reproducing circuit having

a decoder ~~for decoding~~ configured to decode said audio data read out from said memory unit and ~~producing~~ produce a decoded output signal, and

a digital/analog converter ~~for converting~~ configured to convert the decoded output signal from said decoder into said analog signal; and

a plurality of headphone driven units receiving that respectively receive as input at least portions of said analog signal from said digital/analog converter and ~~for producing~~ produce acoustic sounds therefrom; and

~~a headband having said headphone units arranged at both ends thereof and housing said reproducing circuit.~~

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The portable audio signal reproducing apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising an input unit including a plurality of ~~user-operated keys~~ user-activated interfaces that respectively trigger different functions, wherein one of said music data portions is read out from said memory unit in response to operation of one of said keys plurality of user-activated interfaces of said input unit.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The audio signal reproducing apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising a housing unit ~~for housing~~ configured to house therein said

memory unit, said decoder, and said digital/analog ~~eonverter~~ converter and ~~having have~~ said input unit arranged thereon.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The audio signal reproducing apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising ~~holding means, whereby a holder that enables~~ said memory unit [[is]] to be removably housed in said housing unit.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The audio signal reproducing apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising an electrical connecting connector means for that electrically connects said headphone unit plurality of headphone driven units and said housing unit.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The audio signal reproducing apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising ~~mounting means, whereby a mount that enables~~ said memory unit [[is]] to be removable.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The audio signal reproducing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said apparatus further comprises a handband and a battery housed in said headband, at least two of said plurality of headphone driven units being disposed on said headband.

Claim 16 (New) A portable audio signal reproducing apparatus according to Claim 9, further comprising:

a headband having two of said plurality of headphone driven units arranged at both ends thereof.

Claim 17 (New) A portable audio signal reproducing apparatus comprising:

a memory unit including at least one semiconductor memory configured to store the compressed audio data that was previously compressed via high-efficiency compression processing;

a decoder configured to decode the compressed data when read out from the memory unit, and configured to produce a decoded output signal according to a reverse processing of the high-efficiency compression processing;

a digital/analog converter configured to convert the decoded output signal from said decoder into at least one analog signal;

at least first and second headphone driven units each configured to produce at least one of left and right channel audio sounds based on the at least one analog signal; and

an input unit including a plurality of user-activated interfaces that respectively trigger different functions, wherein the compressed audio data is read out from said memory unit in response to triggering of one of said plurality of user-activated interfaces of said input unit.